Standard Operating Procedures for The Virgin Islands

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OVERVIEW OF THE VI

- The Virgin Islands is a group of over 60 Islands, rocks and cays located 60 miles east of Puerto Rico.

- Population about 30,000

- Tortola main Island carries about 12,000

- All Islands are of volcanic formation except for Anegada which is coral limestone.

- Names of the Islands are of Spanish and Dutch origin

Map of the Virgin Islands (British)
For the BVI, the tsunami associated with the 18 November 1867 earthquake which occurred on the southern segment of the Anegada fault zone, is the most significant since historical times.
The Department of Disaster Management signed an MOU with the Puerto Rico Seismic Network (PRSN) in 1999. This agreement has allowed the DDM to gain access to a host of valuable data and information provided by the PRSN. Through these efforts the Virgin Islands started using SOPS from 2006 for use in the event of Tsunami.
TSUNAMI PROTOCOLS FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

BVI (DDM & RVIPF)/VITEMA

PTWC  WCATWC  PRSN  NEIC

Earth Quake
With a magnitude
greater than or equal
to 7.0
(local)

NO

YES

PRESEMA

NWS

TSUNAMI WARNING MESSAGE
TSUNAMI PROTOCOLS CONTINUED

- PTWC
- WCATWC
- PRSN
- NEIC
- REGIONAL NETWORKS

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Earthquake Mag. Greater than 7.5

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Earthquake Intensity 7 or greater

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NO

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YES

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NO

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YES

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TSUNAMI WATCH MESSAGE
TSUNAMI PROTOCOL CONTINUED

BVI DDM & RVIPF / VITEMA

PRSN

PRESEMA

NWS

YES

Tsunami with intensity I greater than or equal to VII

NO

NWS

TSUNAMI CANCEL MESSAGE
WHEN MESSAGE RECEIVED

- Bulletin is assessed from PRSN/WCATWC (by DDM & RVIPF)
- Director of DDM will be contacted based on information a decision will then be made.
- Once no impact is determined no further action is required
TSUNAMI WATCH ISSUED

• Once the PRSN recommends a Tsunami Watch
• Police will contact the DDM pertaining to information received (a specific list of numbers are called in a particular order)
• Director, DDM upon receiving information, will call a specific list of numbers will be called in a particular order
A bulletin will be issued (no systems will be activated information sent to all media) by the DDM will continue to monitor current issue.

Continued updates will be sent the public based on information received from the PRSN.
TSUNAMI WARNING ISSUED

• Once the PRSN recommends a Tsunami Warning

• Police will contact the DDM pertaining to information received (a specific list of numbers are called in a particular order) if Police is unable to contact the DDM and can verify the to determine information received from PRSN is accurate other SOPs would take effect.

• Director, DDM upon receiving information, will contact a specific list of numbers in a particular order.
• Emergency Alert System will be activated all communication means will be used to alert public

• A bulletin will be *by issued by* the DDM indicating to the public about the present danger.

• Continued updates will be sent to the public based on information received from the PRSN.
Once the PRSN has indicated to the DDM that a Tsunami Cancel Message/All Clear be given.

Director of DDM will issue the ‘All clear’ message in consultation with the Governor.

All means of communications will be used to issue Tsunami Cancel Message/All Clear.

Calls will be made to persons if possible through the use of the Emergency Contact List.

In the event that no communication systems functional loud hailers carried in emergency response vehicles (POLICE) will be used to issue the ‘All Clear’.
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA

VHF MOBILE AND SEA

SIRENS

SEISMIC MONITORING

RDS RADIO

EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM
PRESENTLY BEING PURSUED

- To have a EWS using the CAP protocol
- The DDM is presently pursuing talks with Cellular Providers about the use of Cell Broadcasting and Blast SMS technology.
- Expansion of siren network and upgrade of Emergency Broadcast System
- Completion of Evacuation Routes
- Provide remote access capabilities to Police when activating the DDM Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- Work with partners to continue improving the EAS